

**SECRET**

10 October 1949

**MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD**

**SUBJECT: BOVIND Meeting**

1. A meeting was held on the sixth of October at former Ambassador Bullitt's home to discuss the situation with respect to the future of operation BOVIND as a result of the very complex situation created by the untimely death of Michael Frasheri. The following participated in the discussion:

[redacted] and [redacted] Office, [redacted] [redacted] and [redacted]

2. In answer to the first question on the agenda, "Should we continue to seek the support of Zag for the Committee for Free Albania?", it was decided not to precipitate a showdown with Zag at this time but rather to maintain a "correct attitude" by indicating to him that we will seek his views as to who should replace Frasheri on the Committee. As a result of this discussion, a cable was prepared to [redacted] instructing him along these lines. It was further agreed that the British views would be solicited and that a British representative and a member of OPC should subsequently meet with Zag to discuss the whole problem.

3. In answer to the question, "Should we seek the adherence to the Committee of Vloriaci and the B.K.I.P.", it was decided that we would not bring in this group who are badly tainted by collaboration and their pro-Italian connections, even though they have recently indicated that they would like to join the Committee.

4. The most delicate question, that of deciding who should be our candidate to replace Frasheri as chairman of the Committee, was then discussed. It was generally agreed by those present that Andoni, present secretary of the Balli Kombeter party, would be a good choice; however, due to his youth it was questionable whether the other members of the Executive Committee would be agreeable to his selection. It was also decided that we should impress on the Albanians in exile that (a) this whole matter is a serious undertaking, (b) the Committee should proceed with its work, and (c) they must resolve the succession issue. A paper will be released to a local U.S. newspaper and then rebroadcast by the VOA stating that the Committee's work will continue and that in the latter part of October a new member for the Executive Committee will be

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appointed in Europe in accordance with established procedures. We agreed that this Executive Committee meeting should probably be held in Paris.

5. To set the stage for this, it was decided that [ ] would discuss separately with Hasan Dosti, who is already assuming the mantle of leadership of the Balli Kombetar, with Mr. Shundi, and with Ensi Kotta, the only member of the Executive Committee presently in the U.S., their reactions and feelings on the matter of succession. It was also decided that an OPC representative (McGargner was nominated) would leave as soon as possible first for London to discuss with the British their views on this matter, especially since it is believed that the British may possibly be in favor of either Abas Kapi or Abas Rumenji for the presidency. In addition, an OPC representative (McGargner nominated) should then proceed to Rome with the British and discuss with the other three members of the Committee their opinion as to who should succeed Frasheri. It was felt that it might be possible to take the approach that it was necessary to maintain the delicate balance in the Committee and that, therefore, Antoni was the logical selection. In the final analysis, however, Antoni would be only a figurehead and the real work would be performed by members of the military junta.

6. All agreed that this issue must be resolved as expeditiously as possible so that the anticipated fight over succession will not interfere with the recruitment of the fifty Albanians who must be trained at Malta before the first of December.

[ ]/1jm

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